USGS Crews Measure Record Flooding in Central Texas

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U.S. Geological Survey field crews are measuring record flooding in parts of central Texas following intense rainfall.

Rainfall totals exceeding 10 inches since early morning have led to widespread flash flooding and road closures in the San Antonio and Austin areas.

Nine USGS crews are measuring high flood flows and verifying streamgage operations on the Blanco, Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers, as well as Waller Creek, Cypress Creek, Onion Creek, Walnut Creek, Bear Creek, Barton Creek and Shoal Creek. Preliminary data show record flood peaks were measured earlier today on Onion Creek at Driftwood and Barton Creek at Highway 71. Water levels are already receding at these locations. All USGS streamgages are fully operational and have not been impacted by the flood at this time.

USGS crews will keep tracking the movement of the floodwaters as rains continue and the water moves downstream. This information is critical for resource managers and emergency responders to help protect life and property. The USGS has coordinated efforts with the City of Austin, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Lower Colorado River Authority, Comal County and Guadalupe County.

There are about 520 USGS-operated streamgages in Texas that measure water levels, streamflow and rainfall. When flooding occurs, USGS crews make numerous discharge measurements to verify the data USGS provides to federal, state and local agencies, as well as to the public.

For more than 125 years, the USGS has monitored flow in selected streams

and rivers across the United States. The information is routinely used for water supply and management, monitoring floods and droughts, bridge and road design, determination of flood risk and for many recreational activities.

Access current flood and high flow conditions across the country by visiting the

USGS WaterWatch website. Receive instant, customized updates about water conditions in your area via text message or email by signing up for USGS WaterAlert. See where floodwaters go by following a stream trace at Streamer. View water data on your mobile device. Learn how a USGS streamgage works.

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